

The Women in the Arts & Media Coalition

PRESENTS



CONVERSATIONS IN AMERICA:

2020 VISION - THE YEAR WE SAW EVERYTHING

MARCH 19, 2022

3:00 PM ET





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Women
ARTS

**Conversations in America:
2020 Vision - The Year We Saw Everything**

Welcome

Co-Presidents Avis Boone, Yvonne Curry, and Shellen Lubin

2020 Vision

Written and performed by Shebana Coelho

Since I was twelve, I've worn glasses. I dimly remember what it feels like to have 2020 vision. But in the year 2020, I began to see more clearly than I had ever seen before.

Silence is Not Golden

Words and music by Harriet Reynolds

Performed by Harriet Reynolds

Roommates

Written by B.J. Burton

Directed by Alisa Matlovsky

Performed by Meg MacCary and Ellen Wolf

Doing

Written and performed by Towanda Underdue

Directed by Christine Cirker

Doing explores my discovery of who I really am and how having resilience in the face of opposition moves me onward to my destiny. It's about the dualities in us all that surprisingly connect us.

Love in the Time of Corona

Words and music by Sonya Hayden

Performed by Sonya Hayden

Love in the Time of Corona is an original song and music video written, directed, and performed by Sonya Hayden. She created this piece from the confines of her apartment early on in the pandemic to keep her spirits up during quarantine.

In the Zoom Room

Written by Stephanie Satie

Directed by Shellen Lubin

Performed by Debra Khan-Bey and Stephanie Satie

Summer, 2020. Four months into the pandemic. "The center cannot hold," (W.B. Yeats)

Hoax

Written by Debbie Lamedman

Directed by Tamara Carroll

Performed by Esra Dayani and Becca Bernard

Hoax was written in direct response to a conversation I had with a woman who lives on my street. It was August 2020; we were in the throes of COVID-19, and I was walking my dog on a hot summer day wearing my mask. My neighbor, who wasn't wearing a mask, asked me why I was wearing one. The interaction left me fraught with worry, and in response to that emotion, I do what all playwrights do. I wrote about it.

The Life (from Money Make'm Smile)

Written by Mary Bonnett

Directed by Kay Martinovich

Performed by Shaun Bennet Fauntleroy

Tomorrow

Words and music by Amy Engelhardt

Performed by Amy Engelhardt

Director of Photography, Alex Stein

Flower Farthest From the Path

Written and performed by Amy Oestreicher

Amy died in 2021, soon after submitting this piece to us. We are all grateful to have known her, with her boundless enthusiasm, determination, and creativity. We know that her words and music and paintings live on.

Zenophobia

Written by Lava Buckley and Angelique Midthunder

Directed by Angelique Midthunder

Performed by Lava Buckley, Cedric Jonathan, Nonoma, Kitar Haiyan Chen, and Kevin Padsdon

Produced by Lava Buckley

Director of Photography - James Kwan

Sound Recordist & Editor - J Keenan Wallace

Me Too

Words and music by Germaine Shames

Performed by Germaine Shames

Ten Promising Women

Written and performed by Candece Tarpley

I wrote this because of what is happening surrounding Missing and Murdered Native Women here in the US. It is a cry for help and attention. Women all over the world are being severely mistreated. Names don't really matter - it's the conditions and treatment thrown at each woman.

Magical Roots \$20

Written by Dana Schwartz

Directed by Diane Davis

Performed by Kendall Evans and Sophie Overwater

Creative inspiration by Ezra Broms

The Resurrected

Written and performed by E.P. McKnight

Ole Cram on Piano

America is Grounded

By Deanne Stillman

Performed by Frances Fisher

This monologue is excerpted from my essay, "America Is Grounded – and the Birds Are Back," which was published in the Independent on April 25, 2020. I wrote it during the pandemic when birds returned and an image of grounded airplanes triggered a memory of family trips to the airport hotel where we would watch planes depart.

I'm Here

Lyrics by Sonya Hayden

Music by Kristoffer Bjarke

Performed by Terran Scott

This song is from Sonya and Kris's new musical exploring the Greek myths behind the constellations. In this song, the character of Andromeda is chained to a rock out at sea and about to be sacrificed to sea god Poseidon's monster as punishment for her mother's vanity.

Know Your Rights: Equal Pay

Stand UP, Speak OUT: The Personal Politics of Women's Rights

Produced by Elizabeth Harris

For BC Voices, Inc.

Katherine J. Brewster, Executive Producer

Susan Shapiro Metz & Linda Graves Stewart, Assoc. Prod.

Editing by Ira Blanchard

Voiceover by Nicola Barber

Speak Up

Words and music by G. Victoria Campbell

Arranged by Joseph Purdue

Performed by Justine Woodford

Speak Up is an anthem to females everywhere that we must not be silenced or suppressed, and that we have the power of our words to enact change.

The Year of Hibernation (with Ooh Child)

Words and music by Shellen Lubin

Arranged by Matthew Gandolfo

Performed by Justine Woodford

Bios of Submitting Artists:

BC Voices, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded by members of the Class of 1971 at Barnard College, the women's undergraduate division of Columbia University in New York City.

Our mission is to collect, preserve and share the stories of women coming of age in the tumultuous late 1960s/early 70s – and then riding the crest of the second wave of feminism over the past half century when doors have opened for women, but not all the way. BC Voices commissioned filmmaker Elisabeth Harris to produce the online docuseries *Stand UP, Speak OUT: The Personal Politics of Women's Rights*.

Mary Bonnett co-founded Her Story Theater, a theater for social change. Her plays includes *Gloss Over* (homeless women), domestic trafficking - *Shadow Town*, *The Johns*, *Money Make'M Smile*, *Monger* and *Cide Show*, and *Invisible* (Women's KKK impact on present culture). Her work is based on hundreds of interviews. Mary's historical plays include *The 9th Floor Door: Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire*, *Radical Ideas! Women and The Vote* and monologues on women fighting for social equality. Her new work is MIA "Where Have All The Young Girls Gone?" Novels include a publish children's book and an adult historical novel. HerStoryTheater.org

Lava Buckley is an award winning Asian American filmmaker, with an invisible disability, based in New Mexico. She is driven to create films for her community that encourage overcoming challenges and identity journeys. Currently, Lava is creating a documentary about honoring traditional Asian clothing, editing a documentary about her journey with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, and writing a dramedy about an Asian American Daughter with CRPS living with her immigrant mother. When not creating films, Lava loves spending time off the grid in a camper van and taking photos of her dogs.

B.J. Burton is a playwright, whose work includes “Lobelia Lodge,” “Hunting Season,” “For the Record,” and “Good Neighbors.” Her plays have been performed at InterAct Theatre Company, Hedgerow Theatre, The Refinery at Steel River Playhouse, Pittsburgh New Works Festival at City Theatre, Six Women Playwriting Festival, Manhattan Theatre Source, Players Club of Swarthmore, Colonial Playhouse, The Brick Playhouse, Widener University, and others. Honors include two fellowships from Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and winner of the Pennsylvania Playwriting Award. She is the author of “The Philadelphia Connection: Conversations with Playwrights,” which is in libraries worldwide. She received her M.F.A. at Rosemont College, where she taught for several years.

G. Victoria Campbell (she/her) is an Indonesian-American songwriter, composer-lyricist, playwright, and I/O Psychologist. Her mission is to uplift and empower marginalized communities by inspiring humanity to play their part to achieve a more inclusive, equitable society. Her debut theatrical work, **TREESON: AN ECO-MUSICAL** (2020, www.treesonmusical.com), is an original new musical about finding purpose in life amidst the climate crisis. Her songs have been performed around the world including London's Union Theater, the It's Time Climate Festival, and various cabarets. She is a resident of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Ireland (2022), and a finalist of the BMI Lehman Engel Workshop. She also writes music with EDM producer Mattias Gillis Winge Rudh of MEoStAr and The Churning Mondays. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild, BMI, Maestra Music, and MMD. She resides in Switzerland.

Shebana Coelho is a writer and performer, originally from India, currently living in Spain. Her solo plays include *The Good Manners of Colonized Subjects* and *Once I was a stone, una piedra ek pathar*, both featured in the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre's NuWorks series. She produces the blogcast, *Faraway is Close: stories, songs, conversations on awakening to a life of creativity, excavating colonization, place, purpose, and exploring the mystery of journey*. Read more at shebanacoelho.com

Amy Engelhardt: Composer/lyricist/bridge-and-tunnel kid AMY ENGELHARDT scored OBA Best New Musical nominee BASTARD JONES at NYC's cell theatre, where she is a Resident Artist. Other credits include TRIPTYCH (book/music/lyrics, NY Transit Museum Commission), CONTACT (lyrics, Puget Sound Theatre Award) and A COMEDY OF ERAS (w/the Flying Karamazov Brothers). Amy received MAC's Burman Songwriting Award and co-created TUNE IN TIME, New York's Musical Theater Game Show ("cerebral fun & games... the BMI Musical Theatre workshop on steroids") at the York Theatre. From 1998-2012, Amy recorded 4 albums and toured the US/Europe as the sole female vocalist/writer for Grammy-nominated, genre-busting band The Bobs.

Sonya Hayden (she/her) is a composer, lyricist, and playwright whose work has appeared at local and international venues, including Lincoln Center GREEN, Edinburgh International Festival, Traverse Theatre, Little Fish Theatre, ATHE's New Play Development Workshop, and The Duplex. She is a member of the BMI Advanced Musical Theatre Workshop, Dramatists Guild, ASCAP, Recording Academy's Musical Theater Mentorship Program, and New Perspectives Theatre's Women's Work Short Play Lab. She was previously a member of Maestra's Mentorship Program, Workshop Theatre's selective writers' intensive, and Princeton Triangle Club Writers Workshop. Master's in Playwriting, University of Edinburgh; A.B. Music, Princeton University. sonyahayden.com / @sonyahayden11 Her collaborator, **Kris Bjarke** (he/him), is a composer and pianist originally from Seattle and has been active on both coasts as a pit musician and music assistant for shows in development.

As a composer, his work has been heard in the New York Musical Theatre Festival and has been produced by Theatre Now New York. He is a member of the BMI Lehman Engel Advanced Musical Theater Workshop.

Debbie Lamedman is a playwright, editor, and teaching artist currently based in Portland, OR. Debbie's books and plays have been published by Smith & Kraus, Inc., Heuer Publishing, Applause, and Next Stage Press. She is a frequent guest teaching artist and has taught master classes in playwrighting and monologue workshops at several universities including Pacific University in Oregon and the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Debbie received her MFA in theatre from Brandeis University and is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and Honor Roll!, an advocacy group for female playwrights 40+. www.debbielamedman.com

E.P. McKnight is a graduate of Fordham University Lincoln Center, NYC where she received her master's degree in educational psychology and is working on Doctoral Degree in Physiology of for Performance Psychology. Ms. McKnight wears many titles: School Teacher, Speaker, Fitness Instructor, Playwright, Author, Actress, Talk Show Host, Producer, and Director. Also, an innovator and founder of Nikao Imani Prods., a non-profit company that produces stage productions and community events. She works in film, tv, theatre and commercials. Has three one person shows (Black women of the 19th and 20th Century) that have traveled nationally. Author of "Joy365", "Words 'N' Action."

Amy Oestreicher (1987-2021) was an artist, writer, and influential speaker. Her inspiring work spanned from the visual arts to music to writing to education. Offerings included a variety of hailed workshops and outreach programs, the sale of her visual art and fashion line, her original multimedia solo-musical *PASSAGEWAYS* directed by Shellen Lubin and musical directed by Bob Goldstone at Here Arts Center in 2019, and her book, *My Beautiful Detour*, from which she did many public readings.

Harriet Reynolds is a singer songwriter based in Austin. Her two-plus decades of performances have included stages all over the world. Much of her current work revolves around issues of social justice and equity, to name a few. Her fourth original album—*Ready For A Change*—is due out in the next few months. She is especially proud of this project, as it features essentially the work of two women, between Harriet's tracks and those of her fantastic UK producer Katie Marie. She currently appears every Tuesday at 5pm Central for livestream shows. For more info, go to <https://www.harrietreynolds.com>

Stephanie Satie divides her time between writing and performing, often exploring the way refugees and immigrants respond to disruption and relocation. She's written and performed three critically acclaimed solo plays -- *Refugees*, published by Samuel French, *Coming to America* and *Silent Witnesses*, based on interviews with child survivors of the Holocaust. Other plays: *Leon's Dictionary*, set in Ukraine, 1990s as the Soviet Union crumbles, (semifinalist at the O'Neill); *Say Goodnight George*,

inspired by George Burns and Gracie Allen; The Martyr of Moscow about dissident Russian journalist, Anna Politkovskaya, who was assassinated in 2007. Her heart aches for the people of Ukraine.

Dana Schwartz is a Los Angeles writer, director, producer and actress. She is head writer and stars in the 9 episode Zoom series "Isolation Inn". As an actress she has performed all around the world. She is the co-creator and Producer of Theater at the Museum at LACMA, and currently Produces the MADlab New Play Development Program at Moving Arts, where she is a company member. Her plays can be found at <https://newplayexchange.org/users/19341/dana-schwartz> and www.danawritesplays.com

Thank you for supporting Female creatives and new work!

Germaine Shames, a Kilroys List playwright and recipient of her state's Literary Fellowship in Fiction, is author of the award-winning novels, *Between Two Deserts and You*, *Fascinating You*. For the past five years, Shames has celebrated premieres in such cities as NYC, London, Chicago and Minneapolis. Her TYA play, *Year of Thirteen Moons*, won ThinkTank's 2021 playwriting award, and her adaptation, *The Lost Girl*, Starlight Theater's 2019 award. Her bio-drama, *The Higher Love*, winner of four workshop competitions, will be revived as part of Transformation Theatre's 2022 season. As a librettist and lyricist, Shames collaborates with world-class composers in musical theatre, opera, choral and popular music.

The Bird Lady (with composer Timothy Miller) previewed in 2021 at the National Opera Center. Her musical, Capri (with Paul Scherer), won Skyline Theatre Company's new musical search and will be their singular offering at the 2022 NJ Theatre Alliance Stages Festival, and Naked (with Tareq Abuissa) this year's Musicals NOW and Florida Festival of New Musicals selection. It's all about love. Website: <http://germainewrites.wixsite.com/buzz>

Deanne Stillman's latest play is "Reflections in a D'Back's Eye," produced in 2020 at Highways in Santa Monica and directed by Darrell Larson. A monologue from it appears in Best Men's Stage Monologues 2021 (Smith & Kraus). Deanne's literary nonfiction includes Blood Brothers (starred review in Kirkus, excerpted in Newsweek); Desert Reckoning (based on a Rolling Stone piece, winner of the Spur Award, an amazon editors pick); Twentynine Palms, an LA Times "best book of the year" that Hunter Thompson called "A strange and brilliant story by an important American writer," and Mustang, an LA Times "best book of the year," now in audio with Anjelica Huston, Frances Fisher, and John Densmore.

Candace Tarpley is of Tuscarora/Cherokee/Sissipahaw heritage and a member of the New York Indian Council. She's a Poet, Playwright, Storyteller, Actress and Dancer, being a member of the Dramatists Guild, The National Association of Black Storytellers, SAG-AFTRA Actors Guild and World Champion Powwow Dancer. She is the Host/Producer for the cable television show Pathways to the Dream Lodge Café dealing with Indigenous Cultures and the Arts. View it on You Tube.

She's won several awards for what she participates in. She may be reached at dancehard@actorsfcu.net or her website at www.candecevtarpley.com

Towanda Underdue is a SAG-AFTRA award winning actress, writer, poet, producer, voiceover artist, educator, social activist and mentor. She is known by critics and friends in acting circles as 'the chameleon' of stage and screen for her mastery of changing her voice and look to fit the role. Ms. Underdue is a published poet who opened for the likes of Maya Angelou to Sonja Sanchez. She also advocates for actors and performers by serving on the SAG-AFTRA National Board.

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Check out our website for all that we offer
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